

peripheral wall 11a has become large so that an irregular wrapping may be likely to occur, the distance between the upper and the lower flanges 12, 13 is made narrow. Accordingly, the intruded air can be appropriately removed to prevent the irregular wrapping, and at the same time, deformation of the magnetic tape in a width direction of the magnetic tape can be also prevented.

**Page 11, delete the first full paragraph and insert the following paragraph:**

In addition, in this embodiment, it is preferable to use the numerical values and materials as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**The claims are amended as follows:**

1. (Amended) A tape reel comprising:  
  
a hub having a cylindrical shape; and  
  
an upper flange and a lower flange respectively provided at an upper end and a lower end of said hub,  
  
wherein a magnetic tape is wrapped around an outer peripheral surface of said hub, and  
  
means for gradually decreasing a distance between said upper flange and said lower flange outside an outer peripheral surface of the hub, as said magnetic tape is being wrapped

around said hub, by deflecting said upper and lower flanges towards each other over an entire circumference thereof.

**Please add the following new claim:**

3. (New) The tape reel as set forth in claim 1, wherein a distance between an upper end of an outermost layer of the magnetic tape in a width direction and a lower face of said upper flange is defined as H3, and a distance between a lower end of the outermost layer of the magnetic tape in the width direction and an upper face of said lower flange is defined as H4, said distances H3 and H4 always remaining within a certain range such that the magnetic tape does not contact either of said upper flange and said lower flange.

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

Delete "ABSTRACT" and insert --ABSTRACT--.

A tape reel includes a hub in a cylindrical shape around which a magnetic tape is adapted to be wrapped, an upper flange and a lower flange respectively provided at an upper end and a lower end of the hub. The tape reel is constructed in such a manner that a distance between the upper and the lower flanges outside the outer peripheral surface of the hub is gradually decreased, as the magnetic tape is being wrapped around the hub.